

herein were for the purpose of further illustrating the invention but were not intended to limit it.

What is claimed is:

1. In a gel or paste dentifrice containing a desensitizing amount of a desensitizing agent, the improvement which consists essentially of the desensitizing agent being at least one water soluble or water swellable alkali metal or ammonium salt of an acrylic acid polymer containing about 0.005–0.4 mole equivalent of at least one zinc cation and an additional desensitizing agent, said desensitizing agent being sufficient to reduce dentinal fluid flow.

2. The dentifrice of claim 1 in which the amount of the member of the group is about 0.015 to 0.25 mole equivalent.

3. The dentifrice of claim 1 in which the alkali metal cation is sodium.

4. The oral composition of claim 1 in which the additional desensitizing agent is a potassium salt.

5. The oral composition of claim 1 in which the amount of desensitizing agent is about 0.1 to 30% by weight of the composition.

6. The oral composition of claim 5 in which the amount is about 1 to 15% by weight.

7. The oral composition of claim 6 in which the amount is about 2 to 12% by weight.

8. In a method of desensitizing teeth by applying thereto a desensitizing amount of a dentifrice containing a desensitizing agent, the improvement which comprises employing the dentifrice of claim 1 as the dentifrice.

9. In a method of desensitizing teeth by applying thereto a desensitizing amount of a dentifrice containing a desensitizing agent, the improvement which comprises employing the dentifrice of claim 2 as the dentifrice.

10. In a method of desensitizing teeth by applying thereto a desensitizing amount of a dentifrice containing a desensitizing agent, the improvement which comprises employing the dentifrice of claim 3 as the dentifrice.

11. In a method of desensitizing teeth by applying thereto a desensitizing amount of a dentifrice containing a desensitizing agent, the improvement which comprises employing the dentifrice of claim 4 as the dentifrice.

12. In a method of desensitizing teeth by applying thereto a desensitizing amount of a dentifrice containing a desensitizing agent, the improvement which comprises employing the dentifrice of claim 5 as the dentifrice.

13. In a method of desensitizing teeth by applying thereto a desensitizing amount of a dentifrice containing a desensitizing agent, the improvement which comprises employing the dentifrice of claim 6 as the dentifrice.

14. In a method of desensitizing teeth by applying thereto a desensitizing amount of a dentifrice containing a desensitizing agent, the improvement which comprises employing the dentifrice of claim 7 as the dentifrice.

15. The dentifrice of claim 4 in which the polymer is a cross-linked homopolymer of acrylic acid having a molecular weight of 450,000 to 4,000,000 which is about 40% to 90% mole equivalently neutralized, the additional desensitizing agent is potassium nitrate.

16. The dentifrice of claim 4 in which the polymer is a cross-linked homopolymer of acrylic acid having a molecular weight of 450,000 to 4,000,000 which is about 40% to 90% mole equivalently neutralized, the additional desensitizing agent is potassium nitrate.

17. In a method of desensitizing teeth by applying thereto a desensitizing amount of a dentifrice containing a desensitizing agent, the improvement which comprises employing the dentifrice of claim 16 as the dentifrice.

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